



City of Houston
Building Inspection
CODE WORD 2006

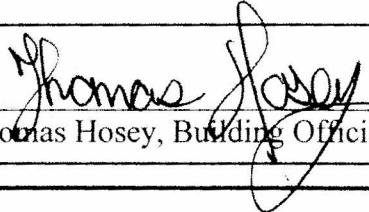
INTERPRETATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF
THE HOUSTON ADOPTED CODES
2006 IBC, 2006 IRC, 2011 NEC, 2006 UMC, 2006 UPC,
2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007

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PUBLICATION:	April 9, 2014				
SUBJECT:	Interpretation - Smoke Dampers in Corridors				
CODE(S):	Building				
SECTION(S)	716.5				

The building code requires smoke dampers to be installed in corridors to prevent the migration of smoke into the path of egress. The smoke dampers required by Section 716.5.4.1 for penetrations of the rated exit corridor are intended to protect the corridor path of egress from smoke migration from adjacent spaces. The dampers are required in fire-rated partitions that serve as corridor walls and smoke barrier walls in accordance with Section 715.4.3. The exterior wall to the outdoors is not an adjacent space within the building and therefore the corridor would not need to be protected from outdoor air.

Based on the code intent, as described in the code commentary and confirmed by ICC, the smoke damper is required when there are air transfer openings or ducts communicating with spaces inside the building. Therefore, when a corridor is served only by outside air and without air transfer openings to adjacent spaces within the building, a smoke damper will not be required for that location.

Approved:


Thomas Hosey, Building Official